GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1858
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2001
PRODUCTION OF ETHANOL
P.R. KHUTE

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to manufacture Ethanol from molasses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ethanol thus produced can be used as automobile fuel;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a),(b),(c)&(d) : Molasses is one of the feedstocks from which ethanol is manufactured.

There are a number of distilleries in the country manufacturing ethanol from molasses.

Present BIS specifications in India permit blending of ethanol with petrol upto 5%.The technical feasibility of the use of ethanol blended petrol as auto fuel is well established. Three Pilot Projects on gasohol have been commissioned by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas at following locations :

- Miraj/Hajarwadi depots in Sangli District, Maharashtra
- Manmad/Panewadi depots in Nasik District, Maharashtra
- Bareilly/Aonla depots in Bareilly District, Uttar Pradesh.

The objective is to ascertain the economic and operational aspects of usage of gasohol in terms of logistic, pricing and environmental impact, customer feedback, etc. Field trials and R&D studies would go on concurrently, the duration being 6 months and 12 months respectively.

(e) Question does not arise.